(d) whether some action plan in this regard has been prepared;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (f) ICCR has been making efforts to promote contemporary Indian Art abroad. Last year, ICCR had acquired its own exhibitions of Contemporary Indian Art, which were displayed in many capitals of the world including London, Moscow etc. In the current year too, ICCR plans to acquire an exhibition of Contemporary Indian Art. In addition, ICCR also supports Ministry of Culture, National Gallery of Modern Arts, Lalit Kala Academy to send exhibitions abroad.

Visit of Chinese Premier to New Delhi

3156. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR:
DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY:
SHRI S. ANBALAGAN:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chinese Premier visited New Delhi, recently;

(b) if so, the details of talks held between both the countries;

(c) whether Indo-Sino border issue was also discussed and China has termed Arunachal Pradesh as disputed territory;

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(e) whether any talks on Free Trade between India and China were also held; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Premier Wen Jiabao of China held detailed discussions with Prime Minister and other leaders on a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues. During the discussions, the two sides assessed that India-China relations have entered a new phase of comprehensive development and agreed to establish a "Strategic and Cooperative Partnership for Peace and Prosperity". The two Prime Ministers signed a

Joint Statement containing a vision for India-China relations and an action plan for cooperation in bilateral, rigional and global domains. Eleven other bilateral agreements were also signed.

(c) and (d) Both sides exchanged views on the India-China boundary question and concluded an "Agreement on the Political parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question". They also reiterated the need to seek an early clarification and confirmation of the line of actual control through the mechanism of Joint Working Group.

There was no specific mention of Arunachal Pradesh during the talks.

(e) and (f) During the visit, the India-China Joint Study Group submitted its report to the two Prime Ministers, in which it recommended an India-China Regional Trading Arrangement. The two Prime Ministers agreed to appoint a Joint Task Force to study in detail the feasibility of, and the benefits that may derive from, the India-China Regional Trading Arrangement and give recommendations regarding its content.

Effect off F-16 Supply on Indo-Pak Talks

3157. SHRI R. KAMRAJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposed sale of F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan by U.S. would hamper the on-going talks between Pakistan and India;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that U.S. had made concrete offer to sale F-16s to Pakistan and whereas U.S. had only made a bunch of promises to sale F-16s and F-18s to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) President Bush telephoned Prime Minister on March 25, 2005 to convey initiatives the Administration intended to take on bilateral ties. He also told Prime Minister that the US had decided to go ahead with the supply of an undetermined number of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. Prime Minister expressed his disappointment to President Bush at the US Administration's decision to supply F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. Government conveyed its concern that such supplies would erode the goodwill for the United States in India and also have repercussions on the India-Pakistan dialogue that is currently at a sensitive juncture.